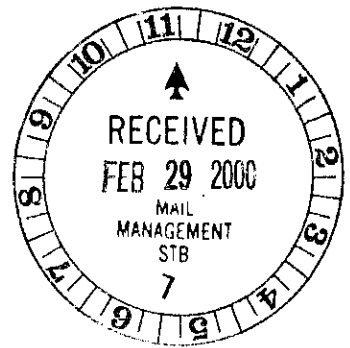


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Feed Ingredient Trading

278 Delaware Avenue
 Delmar, NY 12054
 Phone-518-478-7850
 Fax---518-478-0488
 Email--bstewart@feedcorp.com



February 25, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
 Surface Transportation Board
 Office of the Secretary
 Case Control Unit
 Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
 1925 K Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
 Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

Part of
 Public Record

Dear Sir:

Feed Ingredient Trading Corp. is a major user of rail service in the U.S. and Canada. We wish to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

Our feeling is that the proposed CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its own merits and whether it is good for shippers and receivers.

The timing of the proposed merger is not the central issue for our company. Our main concern is consistent quality service. Recent mergers have failed miserably on service. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that the CN-BNSF combination, and any future mergers, will deliver service.

The Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. Clearly this combination should be judged on its own merits and the STB should not let other railroads use this process to protect themselves and not shippers.

Sincerely,

Byron H. Stewart
 Director of Transportation